RAE EGGLESTON'S LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE BLOG

Featuring Related Discussion:

– User Experience – Accessibility – Emerging Technologies – Digital Archives – Technological Equity – Social Justice – The Internet of Things – Artificial Intelligence – Museum Studies –

ABOUT ME

My name is Rae (she/they), and I'm interested in subjects such as emerging technologies, user experience, and other technological developments coming out of the MLIS field.

INFO 200

INFO 200 Blog Report 6: International Struggles of the Blind and Visually Impaired

November 13, 2022

Much like the United States, the studies completed for both the BVI community, as well as abled communities worldwide, are full of disadvantaged and often also young people. (Mukwevho and Ngoepe, 2018), (Asencio, 2017), (Mulliken, 2019).

In South Africa, race is just one of the many issues that the average South African information seeker faces (Mukwevho and Ngoepe, 2018, p.374). An additional challenge to sharing information in South Africa and other developing nations is that information is primarily shared via social media on a smartphone or other mobile device. These are two aspects of web accessibility that visually impaired users particularly struggle with (Kreutzer, 2009), (Whitney and Kolar, 2020), (Mulliken, 2019).

Even amongst lower income users in the United States, a mobile device is typically the primary or only device at their disposal (Kim and Padilla, 2020). It is easy to imagine how the

I enjoy reading (of course!), playing with my dog, crochet, embroidery and needlepoint, food and cooking, and keeping indoor succulents.

I also play left-handed ukulele and guitar, and someday want to write dystopian science fiction in my spare time. I mostly have come up with ideas and taken notes so far.

ACCESSIBILITY AND TAGS

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struggles that even low-income Latinx children in Silicon Valley face could potentially scale up to the BVI community specifically and on an international level for all users.

Fortunately, different communities worldwide are attempting to assist the BVI and disabled communities they serve. For example, Japan has been doing a lot of work researching various braille technologies and methodologies, such as finger braille (Matsuda et al., 2010) and eBraille (Sugano et al., 2010). These vital technologies could easily be adapted for the English language, and it is a wonder that they aren't more widely studied.

The BVI community is a particularly vulnerable population, with about 90% of the world's visually impaired living in low-income settings. (World Health Organization, 2014). Many of the resources referenced are not specifically about the BVI community. However, if emerging nations as well as the poorer regions of the United States are unable to provide basic internet services for their citizens and their young students at large, what chance do libraries have of reaching the most vulnerable members of our local and international communities?

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By *Rae Eggleston*   *0 Comments*

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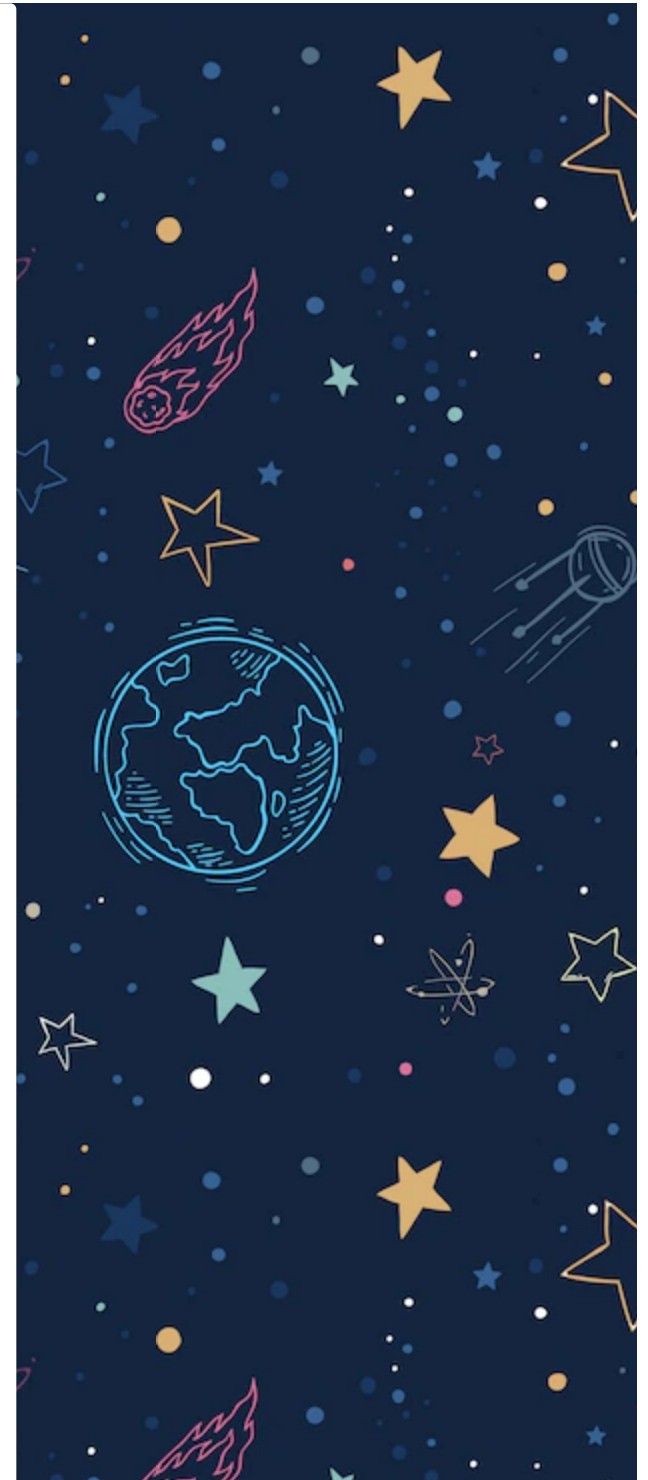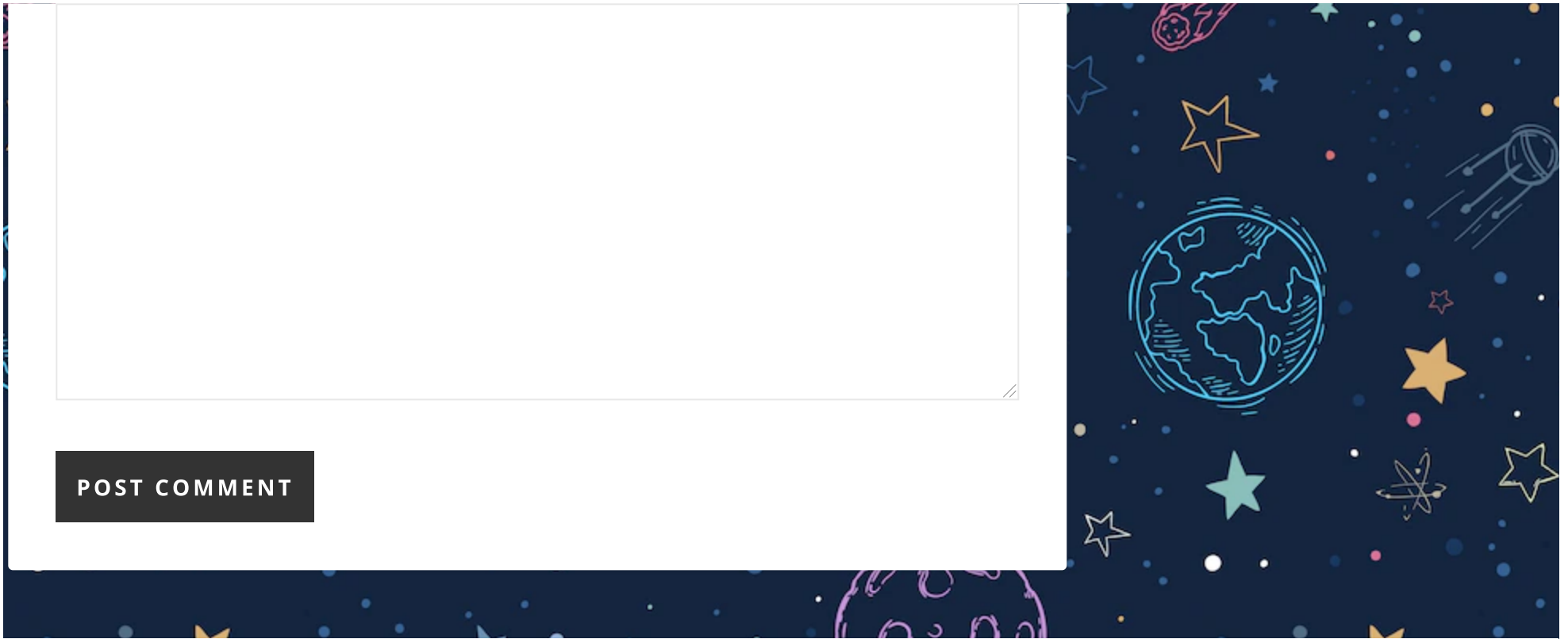Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

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